

**District roundup**

**KUSHTIA**  
**Three held under Anti-terrorism Ordinance**

Oct 7: Belaluddin, President, Abul Hasan Tarek, Secretary and Md Omar Ali, Organising Secretary of Sramik Union of Northern Jute Mills Ltd were arrested by police recently under Anti-terrorism Ordinance, reports BSS. They were sent directly to jail. The sramik leaders allegedly kept confined Manager, Production Manager and Accountant of the mills for two days. Police rescued them. Another message says that at least eleven students were injured in a clash that took place in Kushtia Government College between Chhatra Oikya and Chhatra Shibir. Police arrested six students.

**TANGAIL**  
**Workshop on mother, child care concludes**

Oct 7: A two-day-long workshop of journalists on mother and child care concluded at the auditorium of Family Welfare Volunteers Training Institute here recently, reports BSS. Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Serajul Huque inaugurated the workshop on October 4 as chief guest. Abdul Hannan, Additional District Magistrate, Tangail presided over the function. Forty journalists from Tangail, Gazipur and Jamalpur participated in the workshop. The Deputy Minister said, it was the first workshop of this kind. Nine more would be held in different districts in phases.

**BARISAL**  
**813 tonnes of wheat for 449 projects**

Oct 7: A total of 813 metric tons of wheat has been sanctioned for the implementation of 449 projects in ten thanas of Barisal district under Test Relief Programme in current season, reports BSS. According to an official source, the projects to be implemented are: Repair of roads, educational or religious institutions, tree plantations, construction or re-construction of bridges etc. Of the total, 137 metric tons of wheat were allocated for the implementation of 79 schemes in Barisal Sadar thana, 101 metric tons for 58 schemes in Gournadi, 98 metric tons for 49 schemes in Bakerganj, 89 metric tons for 47 schemes in Mehendigonj, 83 metric tons for 40 schemes in Wazirpur, 67 metric tons for 35 schemes in Agailjhara, 63 metric tons for 36 schemes in Muladi, 60 metric tons for 37 schemes in Hizla, 49 metric tons for 32 schemes in Labagon and 56 metric tons for 36 schemes in Baranipara thanas. Work on these projects has already started.

**SATKHIRA**  
**Woman beaten to death by neighbour**

Oct 7: A woman was mercilessly beaten to death by her neighbour when she demanded her money back from him, police sources said here recently. According to villagers, Monwara (30) of village Balkari in Sadar thana lent Taka 500 to her neighbour Afsar Saded to repay the same in specified time. But Afsar did not pay back the money in time and was taking time once again. At last Monwara went to Afsar on Sunday and asked him to return the money. At one stage of altercation Afsar got furious and started beating her mercilessly with an iron rod. Monwara was rushed to the Satkhira hospital where she succumbed. The body was sent to morgue for autopsy. A case has been filed with the local police.

**CHUADANGA**  
**Immunization Week observed**

From Our Correspondent  
Oct 7: The first national Immunization Week was observed here in a befitting manner recently. In connection with the observance of the week, the local health department chalked out programmes which included children rally, carrying of placards and festoons, poster and distribution of leaflets. On the opening day of the week, a big procession by the children was brought out with festoons and placards which paraded the mainstreets of the town chanting slogan. Later, a discussion meeting was held at local Sreemonto Town Hall which was presided over by the acting Civil Surgeon of Chuadanga Dr Nourul Ali. The Deputy Commissioner Tajul Islam was present there as the chief guest.

Addressing separate gatherings at the bridge sites the minister said, a massive development work in road communication sector has got underway in the district. Later, at a big public meeting at Kaliakoir Golam Nabi Pilot High School ground he said people have started reaping the benefits of their sacrifice during the 9 years of autocracy. He said that every nook and corner of the country has been pulsating with development activities with the assumption of the democratic government.

**GAZIPUR**  
**Foundation stone of three bridges laid**

Oct 7: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed laid the foundation stone of three bridges in Kaliakoir under Gazipur district recently, reports UNB. The bridges will be constructed at a cost of about Taka two crore ten lakh over river Bangshi at Dubal and Begunbari and over Turag at Kaliakoir on Phulbaria-Kaliakoir-Dhamrai Road. Addressing separate gatherings at the bridge sites the minister said, a massive development work in road communication sector has got underway in the district. Later, at a big public meeting at Kaliakoir Golam Nabi Pilot High School ground he said people have started reaping the benefits of their sacrifice during the 9 years of autocracy. He said that every nook and corner of the country has been pulsating with development activities with the assumption of the democratic government.

**LALMONIRHAT**  
**Newsman hold workshop**

Oct 7: A day-long workshop of journalists from Lalmonirhat and Nilphamari districts was held at Lalmonirhat district council auditorium on October 2, reports BSS. The workshop was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner, Lalmonirhat Khalibur Rahman. The inaugural session was presided over by elderly journalist Syed Ali Hossain. A total of 26 journalists participated in the workshop.

**DINAJPUR**  
**Smuggled goods recovered**

Oct 7: Phulbari thana Task Force recovered a huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods from a Hill bound train on Wednesday, reports UNB. The seized goods included 10 maunds of sugar, eight pieces of saree and 20 pieces of glasses, sources said. Thana Task Force along with magistrate, police and BDR personnel raided the Hill bound train from Parbatipur and recovered the contrabands.

**MYMENSINGH**  
**Int'l Elders' Day observed**

Oct 7: The International Elders' Day was observed here in a befitting manner under the auspices of Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangstha, Mymensingh branch, reports BSS. The day's programme included rally, procession discussion meeting and cultural function. A discussion was held at the premises of Muslim Institute to mark the day. Presided over by Dr K Zaman, president of the sangstha. The discussion was participated by Principal M A Shakur, Principal A I M Mufakharul Islam, Syed Nazimuddin Hossain, Tushar Kanti Sarker and Pijush Kanti Ghose. The discussion was followed by a cultural function.



SIRAJGANJ: Hundreds of engine-driven country boats are found at Sirajganj ghat. —Star photo

**Engine-driven boats now main transport on most routes**

From Our Correspondent  
SIRAJGANJ, Oct 7: With the fall in water level in the rivers, engine-driven country boats have become the main river transport for carrying passengers and merchandise goods. At present, over one thousand boats have been plying on different routes of the district. The journey by these engine boats is very risky and accidents occur frequently. Dacoities are also being committed on these routes for which the passengers move with risk. Some passengers informed this correspondent that the dacoits on these routes use high-powered engine boats. It is gathered that the engine-driven country boats have monopolised the 135-mile river routes from Brahmaputra based Bahadurabad-Jagannathganj to the Padma based Gualondo ghat. Passengers and businessmen of Bahadurabad-Fulchari (Teesta Mukh), Jagannathganj-Sirajganj-Kazipur-Bhuapur, Shohagpur-Enayetpur-Bhuapur, Enayetpur-Bera-Baghbari-Nagarbari-Aricha-Daulatdia, Roumari-Chilmari-Shariakandi-Chandanbaisha-Pigna and Chandaganj-Shahzadpur-Dhangara routes widely use engine boats to cross the river at a cheaper rate. Following insufficient rainfall during the current season, water level failed to rise requisite level. During the rainy season, big rivers like the big launches in the Brahmaputra and the Padma. It can be mentioned here that over 500 charlands are still visible in the month of September on 135-mile-long river routes which are hindering the movement of IWTA ferries and railway ferries. During the last fortnight, railway ferry on Sirajganj-Jagannathganj route was stranded for about four times causing immense sufferings to the passengers. Plying of cargo launches, burges and oil tankers are also hindered following the emergence of innumerable charla-lands. Oil tankers can not enter into Baghabari Ghat to supply oil to the depot Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation causing fuel crisis in the northern districts. Ferry boats on Sirajganj-Bhuapur, Nagarbari-Aricha-Daulatdia have been running with heavy risk. The BWTA authorities have issued cautionary signal in plying ferry boats in different ferry routes, it is learnt. A source of Bangladesh Water Development Board informs that record number of shoals have been formed on the riverbeds. Consequently, playing of navigational traffic may be stopped totally during the ensuing dry season. It can also be mentioned here that the large-scale use of shallow tubewell engines in the country boats has been hampering the irrigational facilities in the region.

**25,500 cases pending in Bogra, Satkhira districts**

From Our Correspondent  
SATKHIRA, Oct 7: Thirteen thousand and five hundred cases have been lying pending for trial in the district due to insufficient number of judges. Of which 10500 cases are civil and 300 are criminal cases. It is also gathered that of the total civil cases, 1266 are pending before the court of District and Sessions Judge and three Additional District and Sessions Judges courts, 1427 cases with the court of Sub-Judge, 1407 cases with the court of Assistant Judge of Satkhira Sadar and 3200 cases with the court of Assistant Judges of Kalaroa, Tala, Assassuni, Kaliganj, Debhata and Shyamnagar. Of the total criminal cases, 3000 are pending before the court of thana magistrates of Satkhira Sadar, Tala, Kalaroa, Debhata, Kaliganj, Assassuni and Shyamnagar. According to concerned sources, trials are being delayed due to shortage of judges and magistrates, absence of witnesses, delay in submission of charge-sheet and some unavoidable reasons. A BSS report says: Kaliganj thana police acting on secret information raided a shop at Najimganj Bazar on Friday last and recovered four maunds of brass metal.

**One arrested with ganja plants**

DINAJPUR, Oct 7: Narcotics Department arrested one person and recovered nine ganja plants from Baluadanga area of the town, official sources said here Wednesday, reports UNB. Acting on a tip, the officials raided the house of Yusuf Ali and recovered the ganja trees Sunday. Local people alleged that Yusuf has been cultivating ganja secretly and is engaged in trading the drug for a long time. They also alleged that Yusuf is connected with the inter district gang. A case was filed with local police in this connection. A case has been lodged with the Kaliganj thana in this connection. Police said anti-smuggling drive is continuing all over Satkhira district. Another UNB report adds: About 12,000 cases have been pending for trial since 1972 in Bogra district due to insufficient number of judges. These cases included 7,000 criminal appeal cases, 14,000 criminal revision (motion) cases, 325 family cases, 400 money lending cases, money suit 60, 150 session cases (criminal), 70 cases under Special Powers Act, 50 eviction cases, 40 special cases (DAB), Misc criminal cases 200 and civil Misc cases 18. Moreover, the abolition of upazila courts by the present government has increased the load as 8 courts out of 11 could not be shifted to district headquarters due to accommodation problem. Apart from this, only 12 judges in the district courts, are not sufficient to deal with the huge number of cases.



JESSORE: Local Lions Club brought out a colourful rally here in observance of International World Lions Service Week on October, 2 1992. —Star photo

**Ten get life-term on charges of dacoity, murder in C'nawabganj**

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Oct 7: Ten people were sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of dacoity and murder Saturday, court sources here said, reports UNB. They were also fined Taka 500 each or in default to suffer three months more RI. The convicted are Altaf Nabi, Bablu, Alamgir, Solbur Rahman, Sobhan, Mannan, Saidur, Tamir, Samad and Hamid of Niamatpur thana of Naogaon district. The case, in brief, was that the accused equipped with firearms stormed the house of Faiz Ahmed of Nimol village in Gomstapur thana on September 22, 1984 and looted valuables. They also shot dead servant of the house Ismail who tried to resist the dacoits. A case was registered with the Gomstapur thana and police after investigation submitted charge sheet against the accused. District and Sessions Judge Abdul Quader Khan after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment.

**Police nab one with shot gun**

KUSHTIA, Oct 7: Acting on secret information police Monday raided a house at Kushtia housing estate. Arrested one ketu and recovered one shot gun, three hand bombs, three swords two ramdao, three dhals and two javelins. Police said on his confessional statement they had arrested Ramjan and Kuti.

**Seminar on dairy, poultry farming ends**

TANGAIL, Oct 7: A day-long seminar on dairy and poultry farming sponsored by district Livestock Department was held on October 3 at local district council auditorium, reports BSS. Dr. Farid Ahmed dwelt on the modern techniques of dairy and poultry farming and stressed the need of establishing more poultry and dairy farms in private sectors. Sixtyfive dairy and poultry farmers attended the seminar. After the seminar a committee headed by Khalequzzaman Labu of poultry farm owners association was formed.

**Meet to curb activities of sharbahara men**

JHENIDAH, Sept 27: A high level meeting of police officials was held at the district police office Thursday, reports UNB. The meeting discussed to find out the ways and means for curbing the activities of underground outlawed groups, terrorists, toll collectors and smugglers. Police superiors of Jhenidah, Chuadanga and Kushtia attended the meeting.

**Smuggled yarn seized, one held**

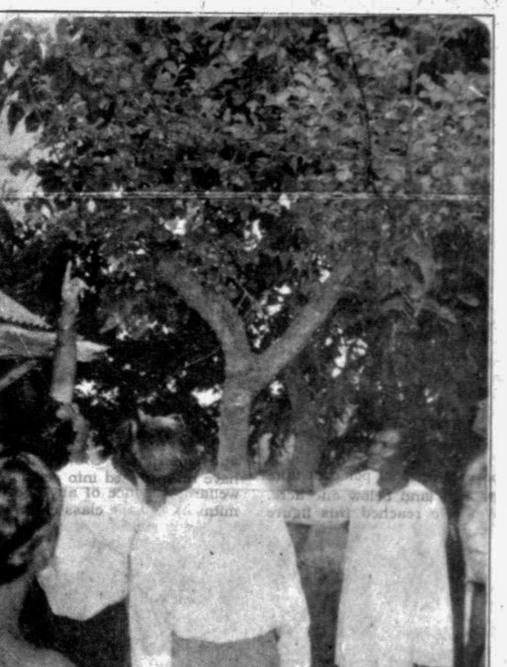
JAMALPUR, Oct 7: Railway police arrested one person and seized some smuggled yarn at Sarishabari thana recently, reports BSS. Police sources said the thread was smuggled goods from India. Police acting on a secret information arrested the smuggler.

**20 injured in clashes**

MAGURA, Oct 7: At least five persons were injured, two of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups at Boligramme village in Sadar thana Friday, reports UNB. According to witnesses, the clash ensued over the possession of a plot of land. Both the groups used lethal and sharp weapons during the clash. The seriously injured To-barok Hossain (35) and Alim Hossain (20) were rushed to Sadar hospital in a critical condition. A case has been filed with the local police. None was arrested in this connection. Another reports from Satkhira adds: At least 15 people including four policemen were injured in Union Parishad polls violence at north Parulia centre in Debhata thana Saturday evening. The violence ensued between the supporters of two rival candidates. During the clash crackers were blasted, brick bats and lethal weapons were used. Police on duty opened blank shots to disperse the mob and brought the situation under control.

**ACROSS THE COUNTRY**  
**A priceless green treasure**

Mir Afroz Zaman  
RAJBARI: What kind of a tree is it? When was it planted? Why is it so fragrant and so distinguished looking? Decidedly a witness of times long past yet why is it so slim? And this tree, miraculous and impressionable simple villagers, is a victim of neglect and may die before long. People of the locality call it the 'Achin brikkha' (unknown tree). With it are associated a host of myths and tales. Located less than a mile off the Tagrathat Railway station in Joydevbarata Mauja in Chokirpasha union (ward number-3), about eight miles away from Rajbari town, the tree has been standing casting a soothing shade that sets one wonder about its origin and other details. All attempts at identifying it has so far proved a failure. After the 'Achin brikkha', the village housing it was named the 'Achingach village'. According to Paramananda Roy (80) oldest man of the village, who came to know the story from his father Danpa Narayan Roy (died at the age of 80) and his grandfather Kandura Roy (died at the age of 100 years, when the age of Paramananda Roy was only 16 years), a conjurer brought the tree 'by air' from 'Kamrup Kamakka' the magic city of tantriks and wizards of all kind. Another legend says that an unknown pir, brought it from the far-west and planted it there so that people at large could enjoy its blissful shade. 'Achinbrikkha' attracts people from far-flung villages who converge on the spot often enough to have a glance at it. The tree gives off milk white sap and is of the evergreen type having its leaves round the year. But it is strange to see that the leaves falling from the tree are never found on the ground — these seem to vanish into air. The old leave on the tree are replaced overnight by the new ones, according to the villagers. The local Hindus hold puja sessions under the tree every two years, said Paramananda Roy, the oldest man of village 'Achingach'. The leaves and barks of the tree may be sent to Dhaka for chemical tests etc believe the local people. There is no denying the fact that the tree is a priceless treasure. If the authorities should wake up to its importance and arrange for its proper care.



RAJBARI: The 'Achinbrikkha' — tree that has been baffling attempts at identification. —Star photo

**1500 tubewells lying out of order in 4 dists**

From Our Correspondent  
BARISAL, Oct 7: About one thousand and five hundred tubewells are lying out of order of which more than one hundred are deep tubewells in four southern districts of Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Bhola. Every year thousands of people of these district suffer from water borne diseases including diarrhoea and dysentery. It is learnt that due to absence of government allocations necessary repair of the tubewells could not be done intime. Of the total, 441 shallow and 49 deep in Barisal, 369 shallow and 57 deep in Jhalakathi, 441 shallow in Pirojpur and 187 in Bhola. Another report adds: The task force of Excise and Customs department recently raided some shops in search of contraband items in Bhola. Members of the task force, according to official sources, seized different contraband items which include cloths, spare parts of rickshaws, Indian cosmetics and other items. Besides, some local people informed that during the time of operation, the members of the task force did not raid some shops those are known as banned items sellers in the town. Water-level of the Pira, Bishkhali and Boleswar flowing through the district has fallen to the knee level bringing navigability to almost naught, reports UNB. The river beds at places are now being used for cultivation while siltation is posing a serious threat to irrigation, pisciculture and navigation.

**Note books flood markets despite govt ban**

NARAIL, Oct 7: Note books of different classes have flooded the local book markets despite government ban on publication and distribution of note books, sources said, reports UNB. A section of unscrupulous people are publishing standard note books with fictitious names to avoid identification. Moreover, these note books with numerous errors and distortions of facts are being sold freely and at a very high price, local people alleged. Some guardians told UNB, that the ban on note books upto class eight should be withdrawn to allow publication of standard note books through healthy competition. They also alleged that by not allowing the healthy competition the government is virtually patronising the non-qualified note book writers and dishonest publishers. For years these people have been publishing standard note books throughout country before the nose of the law enforcing agencies affecting proper education and causing irreparable loss to the nation', a conscious guardian said. He demanded exemplary punishment to the unscrupulous writers and publishers to save the young students who are the future hopes and aspirations of the nation. Another report adds: Screening of obscene films has been going on unabated in the town and different parts of the district causing concern among the guardians and conscious people. Local elite urged the authorities to take legal action against the owners of unlicensed video shops.